THE
World Alarm'd.

K Tercera 9 K 2

The World Alarm'd.

A

Surprizing RELATION,

Of a New

Burning-Island

740 c. 20. 4

Lately raiſed out of the Sea, near *Tercera*;

WITH

A *Geographical* and *Theological* Improvement of So aſtoniſhing an Occurrence.

AND

A brief HISTORY of the other Ignivomous **Mountains** at this day flaming in the World.

In a Letter to an Honourable FELLOW of the **Royal Society** at LONDON.

From a Member of the ſame SOCIETY, at *Boſton*.

BOSTON: Printed by *B. Green*, for *S. Gerriſh*, and Sold at his Shop in Corn Hill. 1721.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

TO

J. C. Esq;

SIR,

'TIS a Scarce Excusable Infirmity, which too often attends me, in Writing on such Subjects as I am now Entering and Venturing upon, that I seem for a few Minutes to forget the *Superiour Knowledge* of the Gentlemen to whom I Write, and who Know much more of the *Former Things* which my Letters often begin withal, and have indeed in all Points whatsoever an Erudition much Exceeding all that I dare pretend unto. But yet I cannot always forbear my Freedom with the Candour of the Gentlemen, in Reviving to them the *Remembrance* of things which they are already acquainted withal: Hoping, that (whether it be true or no, that our *Science* is mostly but a *Reminiscence*) if I make not my *Recollections* too tedious for the Length

of them, the *Trouble* will not prove much greater than the *Pleaſure*. I naturally, and even Unawares fall into the Strains & Frames of a *Camerarius* writing his *Horæ Subceſivæ*, when I can command an *Hour of Leiſure* for ſuch Communications. And perhaps the very NAME of that Learned Gentleman being mention'd, I need uſe no more to obtain my Pardon, where I now addreſs this Imitation of him. Nor am I altogether without Apprehenſion, that it may be poſſible for Some of my poor Letters, to be by the Goodneſs of the Gentlemen communicated unto the View of Others, who may be leſs Inſtructed than themſelves, and ſo more capable of being Edified by the Things which may appear to them leſs uſefully or decently Enlarg'd upon.

Hence it comes to paſs, that as I am going to Entertain you with a New and a Strange *Tercera* Story, I am ſiezed with a ſhort Contemplation, on the Tremendous FIRES, which our Globe ſhakes withal.

Mankind has been generally advis'd and appris'd of a Deſolation, which this our World, that has once already periſhed by *Water*, Expects to Suffer by a *Fire*, which is mention'd under the Term of a *Diluvium Ignis*, in the Diſcourſes of the Ancients. Whether or no the Heathen had ſome Notion of This, lying under the *Embers* of their Fable, that made *Pyrrha*, (a Name, which you are aware, carries, *Fire*, in it) the Wife of their *Deucalion*; 'tis well known that their Philoſophers tell of an Ἐκπύρωσις, or *Conflagration*, with

with which this our World muſt One day be Viſited. The Oracles of our Sacred Scriptures have poſitively declared it; *The Heavens and Earth which are now, be reſerved unto Fire, againſt the Day of Judgment, and Perdition of Ungodly men.* Then will be fulfilled that Word, *By Fire will the Lord plead with all Fleſh, and the ſlain of the Lord ſhall be many.* 'Tis true, In the Circumſtances of the *Conflagration* to be Expected, there are *Some things hard to be Underſtood.* The Deſcent of our Lord REDEEMER, at and for the Deſtruction of the *Antichriſt*, the wicked one, who is to be *Deſtroyed by the Brightneſs of His coming*, and at the Beginning of the *Millenuium*, wherein there will be not only *New Heavens*, and there will be in view the *Holy City*, poſſeſſed by our SAVIOUR, and the *Raiſed*, whom He will make the *Teachers* and the *Rulers* of the *Nations*, but alſo a *New Earth*, occupied by none but *Righteous* Ones, who yet ſhall *build Houſes and Inhabit them*, and *Plant Vineyards and Eat the Fruit of them*: This will not be without a *Conflagration.* Then, *Our GOD ſhall come, and a Fire ſhall devour before Him, and it ſhall be very Tempeſtuous round about Him.* Then, *A Fire ſhall go before the Lord, that ſhall burn up His Enemies round about, and the Earth ſhall tremble, and the Hills melt like wax at the preſence of the Lord.* But ſay, Thou Acute Maſter of Penetration, ſay, How far this *Conflagration* will be Extended? Say, Whether the firſt and main Effects of it will not be on the how prepared!——*Italian* Territories: at

firſt

first reaching (according to the Prophecy,) but a Thousand and Six hundred Furlongs; And whether Dr. *Cressener's* Conjectures, about the Salubrious Effects hereof on the rest of the Earth, may have any thing in them! 'Tis plain, a *Total Consumption* of the whole World must not be *Now* accomplished. The Things then to come on are Such as have these Acclamations upon them; *Let the Earth be glad, let the Field be Joyful, and let all the Trees of the Wood Rejoyce.* Surely, a *Total Consumption* of them could not be proposed as that wherein they might *be glad*, and *be Joyful*, and *Rejoyce.* No; A *Total Consumption* of it, cannot be the *Earnest Expectation of the Creature, waiting and groaning for the Manifestation of the Sons of* GOD. Surely the most that can be supposed, is what *Salonius* of old Expressed as the sense of many more, —— *Tantum ardebit quantum Malitia Hominum simul ac Dæmonum coniquinare potuit.* And there are more than *Twelve Hundred and Sixty* Reasons to make One think, that the Century is begun which must see this amazing Revolution.

But then, there seems to be a *Consummation of all things*, that must arrive after a Number of Ages known to GOD alone! when, it may be, this Globe shall become a *Blazing Star*, and come into the Condition of the *Comets*, that seem to be, *Worlds in a State of Punishment*; and be a *Wandring Star*, for which is *Reserved the Blackness of Darkness for ever.* And, if there must come upon This World, a *Substantial Destruction*, it seems reserved until

those

thoſe *Unknown Ages* be rolled about, and the *Great Day of Judgment* has had *Every Work* brought into it. The many paſſages of this Importance, in the Writers of *Primitive Chriſtianity*; Eſpecially in *Juſtin Martyr*, in *Irenæus*, and in *Lactantius*, (as well as *Hippolitus*.) are what you are no Stranger to. You are too well acquainted with the Original of what is derived under the Name of *Sibylline* unto us, to think any thing of it worth Quoting on this occaſion. You alſo know the Verſes that *Juſtin Martyr* quotes from *Sophocles*, and that *Clemens Alexandrinus* quotes from *Diphilus*, Predicting ſuch an *Utter Deſtruction* of all things. Nor can you forget *Ovids*,

Eſſe quoque in Fatis reminiſcitur. ——

Yea, the wicked *Lucretius* himſelf, Expects, *Una Dies dabit Exitium* —— Indeed it was, as you know, with the *Stoicks*, a common Expectation.

The Inhabitants of *Tercera* muſt have been *Stoicks* indeed, if they had been leſs affected than they were, upon the Late Eruption in the Sea, at ſome little Diſtance from them.

What horrid Commotions, what hideous Convulſions, has this Planet in many parts of it ſuffered, from Subterraneous Combuſtions; and ſuch Amaſsments of thoſe *Igneous Particles* which are *Eternal Fire*, breaking forth at thoſe formideable *Spiracles*, and *Spectacles*, which if they had not been afforded, the Globe would, no doubt, have been torn to pieces! If we range over the *Globe*, a little

Geography

Geography ſoon informs of many Regions that are Signaliz'd and affrighted with them. Yea, ſuch are the Numbers of them, that there needs another *Varenius* to perfect the Reckoning left Unfiniſhed by the former. The Empires of *Japan*, of *China*, of *Indouſtan*, have their Share of Ignivomous Mountains, which give an Inexpreſſible Conſternation to the Beholders of them. The Iſlands that are *Eaſt* of theſe Countries, and thoſe that are *South*, are in many Places trembling with them. They are in both of the *Java*'s; and *Banda* has the Smoke and the Noiſe thereof Senſible at a mighty Diſtance. To the *Northward*, we find the aſtoniſhing Eruptions of the *Infernal Fires*, on the Shores of *Tartary*; To the *Southward* we find them at *New-Guinea*, and the *Lands afar off*. *Africa* has at leaſt Eight of theſe Terrifying Eruptions; and the *Iſlands*, which are made ſuch in the midſt of the *Atlantick*, by the Sinking of the vaſt Countries to the *Weſtward* between the Continent and Them, in the Matchleſs *Earthquake*, whereof we have ſuch probable Traditions in Monuments of Remote Antequity; theſe are no Strangers to them. *Fial*, is well-known to Travellers. (What St. *Helens* and *Aſcenſion* have been formerly, is Conjectured from what is now found upon them.) *Tercera*, I'll come again to Thee immediately! The Flammivomous *Volcano*'s in *America*, are ſo many, that Some, who might have thought of a better Name for it, have called it, *Vulcans Kingdom*; amazed at the *Eſtuaries* that have

have ſo many and ſo mighty Chimney's to them. There are no leſs than Fifteen of them, in the *Andian* Mountains of *Chili*; and if out of *Chili* we paſs into *Peru*, they tell us, we ſhall there find as many more. And the *Terra del Fuogo* is not without them. The *North America* has them as well as the *South*; Divers beſides that at *Nicaragua*. Some of our *Iſlands* have them. And our *Antigua*, which is *without Water*, is not always *without Fire*, but has a Mountain ſometimes Uttering its Admonitions unto the (ſhall we ſay, Duely ſenſible!) Inhabitants. Thoſe in *Europe*, are known to every body. Beſides what is Related by *Tacitus*, of One in *Germany* many ages ago, Mount *Carbo* in *Miſnia* obliges People ſometimes in our Dayes to take notice of it. The Frozen Regions of *Lapland*, and *Iſeland*, and *Groenland*, are not ſo Cold as to admit no *Burning Mountains* there. Viſit *Greece*, and there you have particularly the Iſland *Santorin* in the *Archipelago*. But, *Italy*, *Italy*, is to be *Saluted* with a *doleful Clamour*, as a Country One day to Uudergo Stupendous Devaſtations, from the *Fires* in an awful *Conſervatory* waiting for it. *Sicily* indeed hears the Roars of *Etna*, and the *Volcanello's* of the *Liparitan* Iſlands, particularly *Stromboli*, in its Neighbourhood. But, *Italy*, is the Place, where the *Prieſts Daughter* is to be *burnt with Fire* for her *Whoredoms*. And here, to omit the Shocking Deſcription that *Kircher* has given of his *Phlegræan* Plains, the Kingdom of *Naples*, has had thoſe

Vomits

Vomits of the *Horrible Pit*, at the Mouth o
her *Vesuvius*, which have thrown the whol
World into the *Terrors of Death*; Such
were those of the dreadful Mountain, which
are celebrated by several of the ancien
Historians; and *Marcellinus* particularly tell
us, That all *Europe* was obscured with th
Ashes of the Raging Mountain, and th
City of *Constantinople* it self (in which the
Emperour *Leo* had not the *Courage* to conti
nue his Residence,) kept an Anniversary
Commemoration of it.

But, behold, as if all these *Vents* for the
Fires of the Dismal Vault below us, were
not enough, behold *New Ones* breaking out,
and a very Remarkable One, but a few
Months ago.

Looking back to the Year, 1638. We find,
the Island of St. *Michael*, Shaking with
fearful Earthquakes for Eight Dayes together.
After which, in the midst of the Sea, about
Six Miles from the *Pic* of *Camerino*, in a
notable Fishing-Place, at the Depth of an
hundred and twenty foot under Water,
there broke out a *Fire*, which *many Waters*
could not quench, nor the Ocean drown it.
It reached thro' the Water up to the very
Clouds, carrying up with it Water, Earth,
Sand, and Stones, some of which were of
Enormous Dimensions, and falling back
again into the Water, made what every
one trembled at. (And the *Fish*, mighty
Shoals of them, were boiled unto Death
in this dreadful Caldron; of the *Deep* thus

boiling

hailing at a Port.) From a Collection of ſuch Things, there began a New Iſland, which at firſt was no more than *Five Acres*, but within Four Days, took up the Length of no leſs than *Five Miles*, and in Heighth about Sixty Fathoms.

An Occurrence much like to this, and not very far from it, has very lately happened: With the Relation whereof, an honeſt Man who was an Eye-witneſs of it, newly arrived here, has favoured me.

Captain *John Robertſon*, Commander of a Sneau belonging to *New-England*, arrived at the Iſland of *Tercera*, Dec. 9. 1720. where he found the poor People in the greateſt Conſternation imaginable. For about the Twentieth of *November* before, they heard a Prodigious Noiſe, and felt an Earth-quake, that ſhook down many Houſes, in *Angra*, and the Places adjacent. About the ſame time, there aroſe an aſtoniſhing Fire out of the Sea, to the South Eaſt, near Twenty Leagues diſtant from the Iſland, of *Tercera*, where the People now were by *the Sea and Waves* (and Flames) *Roaring*, thrown into *Diſtreſs* and great *Perplexity*; and made the Proceſſions which the Miſerable *Roman Catholicks* think proper for ſuch occaſions. The Government of the Iſland, Employ'd this honeſt Man, to make ſome nearer approaches into the Formidable Flames, for a more Thorough Diſcovery. On the Eighteenth

of *December*, about Midnight, they made Sail; having aboard a Couple of Priests, and Fourteen other Portugueſe, beſides their own Ships Company; Steering to the *South-East* from the City of *Angra*. The Governmen ordered that my Country-man ſhould not be the *firſt* that went aſhore, upon the *New Iſland*, which they now began to apprehend riſen in the Sea; leſt our King *GEORGE* might on that pretence lay claim unto it. But he, tells me, He did not think that his KING would be very fond of an *Iſland all on Fire*: And he had one Reaſon more, for his not being Ambitious to be the *Firſt* that went aſhore: not having (it ſeems) the Diſpoſition of an *Empedocles* upon him. On Monday by Two a Clock in the Afternoon, they arrived as near as they durſt unto their Intended Port; and ſo near as to be convinced that here was indeed a *New Iſland* ariſen out of the Sea: The Length of it, about Two Leagues; and the Breadth of it the ſame. They Saw Two Large Hummocks all on Fire, with *Pillars of Smoke* reaching up to Heaven. They Steered on ſtill South East, until Seven at Night; But the Wind being Eaſterly, they fell ſomething to Lee-ward; which gave an Opportunity for vaſt quantities of Duſt and Small Stones to fall upon their Decks. The Flames alſo, (to uſe my Captains Expreſſion) made a *Noiſe as if there had been Fifty Canon* at once continually firing. This obliged them to *bear away*, till Day; and

and then they again *bore towards* it; and being Two Miles to the Southward of it, they had a Good Observation, by which they found it ly in Lat. 38. d. 29 m. and Long. 26. d. 35. m. Then bearing round the Island, that they might find a Place for the Two Priests to Land at, the Wind falling calm, they discerned a Place that looked like an Harbour. But even *there*, and from under the very *Water*, there issued *Fire* & Smoke. Yea, the Island appeared now in a Manner all on Fire; and the Fire had like to have been aboard the Ship, and *Pliny*'s Fate have overtaken the Mariners and Passengers. All Hands betook themselves to their Prayers, for Two Hours. And at Five o' Clock, there Sprung up a Breeze, that sufficiently repleniſhed their Decks with Ashes, and Pumice-stones; which also the adjacent Sea is filled withal. But by the Help of this Breeze, they made the best of their way, back for *Tercera*; where they came to Anchor on the Twenty-first of *December*, at Nine o' Clock in the Morning; And the Priests ordered their Portugueſe Attendents, to wash their Feet, and go barefoot ashore, and make their Prayers in the Kings Church; before they carried their Story to those that sent them. The Island lies to the S. E. Seventeen Leagues distant from the City of *Angra*: Destitute, you may be sure, of all *Vegetables*; and for the Constitution of the Soyl, all that could be discerned was, that the sides of the *Hillocks*, from the Tops

whereof there aſcend Flames with the Noiſe of continual Thunder-claps, were formed with pretty Regular Deſcending Furrows; out of which alſo the reeking Steams of a Vapour were ſeen perſpiring.

This is the Short Narrative.

And now, ſhall we *Shew ourſelves Men*? It would certainly be a Brutal Stupidity in us, the *Inhabitants of the Earth*, who may juſtly be in Perpetual *Fear*, leſt the Deſolations of a *Pit* come with the Surprize of a *Snare* upon us, if ſuch New Eruptions from the Bowels of the *Earth*, ſhould not awaken our Meditations & Expectations of the Time, when theſe *Fires* will prevail to ſuch a *Degree*, as to render this World, a *Fiery Oven*.

I will not Recite all the Words of an Eminent *Philoſopher*; How little we know when and where we ſtand upon *Good Ground*; and how much it would amaze the Stouteſt Heart, if he could ſee into the *Subterraneous World*, and how we Walk, and Sleep and Build, ſuſtained only by an *Arched Roof* over a *Dreadful Abyſs*, not in all Places of an Equal Thickneſs. But the Words of a *Divine* may be allowed unto me.

The Deſcription which Dr. *More* gives of the *Conflagration*, which a *Moſt Sure word of Prophecy* teaches us and Compels us to Look for, is indeed ſo very Expreſſive, that I cannot forbear tranſcribing a little of it.

Our

Our Glorious Lord, —— 'will cauſe ſuch 'an Univerſal Thunder and Lightning, that 'it ſhall rattle over all the Quarters of the 'Earth; and diſcharge ſuch claps of Unex-'tinguiſhable Fire, that it will do ſure Exe-'cution wherever it falls; So that the ground 'being Exceſſively heated, the Subterraneous 'Mines of Combuſtible Matter will alſo take 'Fire; which inflaming the Inward Exha-'lations of the Earth, will cauſe a terrible 'Murmur under Ground; So that the Earth 'will ſeem to thunder againſt the Tearing 'and Rattling of the Heavens, and all will 'be filled with ſad remugient Echo's. Earth-'quakes and Eruptions of Fire there will be 'every where; and whole Cities & Coun-'tries Swallowed down, by the vaſt Ga-'pings and Wide Divulſions of the Ground. '—— And this fiery Vengeance, ſhall be ſo 'thirſty, that it ſhall drink deep of the very 'Sea; nor ſhall the Water quench her de-'vouring Appetite, but Excite it. —— The 'whole Earth ſhall be Enveloped, in One 'Entire Cloud of an Unſpeakable Thickneſs, 'which will cauſe more than Egyptian 'Darkneſs; which added to the choaking 'Heat and Stench, will compleat this *Exter-'nal Hell.*

How *Livelily Painted*!

But as I have my Friends agreeing with me when we have had our View of a caged *Lion*; *That the Lion is really more Fierce than he is or can be painted:* we may moſt certainly

ſay ſo, of that *Ariel*, which is one day to Devour the Earth; the *Devouring Fire*, and *the Everlaſting Burnings*!

'Tis very ſure, PIETY in its due Operation, will diſpoſe us, to Hear the Glorious *GOD Speaking to us from the midſt of the Fires*: And there will be nothing of a *Magical* Superſtition in it, if we make a Pious Improvement of them, and *Enkindle* our Devotion from them.

And the Almighty GOD having thus fired a *New Beacon* before the *Eyes of the Nations*, would not be a Folly to be derided, if they ſhould be *Alarmed* from it, into Serious Thoughts on the State of a *World*, which may be nearer to a direful *Cataſtrophe* than is generally thought for. Had we yet Living and Shining among us, the Admirable *Nieuentyt*, who has by your Excellent Care and Exquiſite Skill, become the Inſtructor of our Nation, I am ſure, Such a *Religious Contemplation* would not have been judged improper by ſuch a *Religious Philoſopher*.

Nor will you, Sir, into whom the Sentiments of *Piety* which inſpired that rare Perſon, have made ſo Conſpicuous a *Tranſmigration*, judge it at all Incongruous for *me* to make this *Reflection*.

Our Great SAVIOUR having Warned us that there will be a *Great Furnace of Fire* into which wicked Men ſhall be caſt into; and the *Infernal Fires* that we ſee growing upon us being ſuch *Emblems* and *Symptoms* and indeed *Aſſurances* of it; Can there be any more

prop

proper Conſequence than this? That the *truest Wiſdom* lies in getting into *Good Terms* with Him, and obtaining Him to be our SAVIOUR; Adoring & Obeying of Him as our GOD. The *Burning of the World* is that *Wrath to Come*, from which our Bleſſed JESUS will *Deliver* His Followers, as Effectually as the *Ark* did the choſen Patriarchs from the Flood. And it is well for us, that tho' *we* do not yet our ſelves know of the *way*, wherein it ſhall be accompliſhed, *Our GOD knows how to deliver the Godly, and reſerve the Unjuſt unto the Day of Judgment to be puniſhed.*

But, yet more particularly, without eſpouſing an Expreſſion ſometimes uſed, *That the World ſhall be Burned for a Witch*, I think, the Sight we have of what the *World* is coming to, may very Reaſonably diſſolve its *Enchantments*, and abate the *Bewitching* Efficacy which it has upon us, and prevent the Madneſs of an Heart inordinately ſet upon a World, out of which our GOD is *ſpring* of us, as out of Another *Sodom*.

I will only add; That, as One would be loath to be Condemned unto a Reſidence on the *Burning Iſland* near *Tercera*; ſo I am ſorry, that the *Fiery Contentions* on Yours, do render it ſo worthy of ſuch an Appellation: And I wiſh, that where I am now Writing, there were leſs of the ſame *Infelicity* to be complained of.

But we are come into the Period, whereto the Unerring Oracles have aſſigned *That*, as One of its very ſignal Characters, *The Nations were Angry*. And if we have not more Literal

Volcano's

Volcano's very near us, (Tho' they ſay, you once had ſomething like One in *Scotland*, which burnt for Sixteen Years together) Yet thoſe which a *Metaphor* may call ſo, will daily multiply. Our Beſt Friends will ſoon become *Volcanello*"s to us, now *the Love of many waxes cold*, if we do not maintain much *Meekneſs of Wiſdom*, and Study *Patience*.

I have done. I have taken the more of Liberty to do ſomething like what I find Required; *Glorify ye the Lord in the Fires, even the Lord GOD in the Iſles of the Sea*; becauſe he is a Devout *Chriſtian* as well as an Acute *Philoſopher*, whom I am now Converſing with; and who will always allow to *me* the Liberty of, **The Chriſtian Philoſopher.**

On which accounts, were I Maſter of as many Languages, as were Employ'd by the Learned for the Celebration of the *Peyreskius*, whom you have in ſo many things made your Pattern; Yea, or of as many Languages as you have lately given us, in a Collection which will Immortalize your Name far more than ſo many Statues, I ſhould not reckon them too many to Expreſs the Great Regards, with which I now Subſcribe my ſelf,

SIR,

Your Moſt Conſtant

Friend & Servant.

Boſton, N. E. June 10. 1721.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM

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